

NOV 29 2005



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TO: Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
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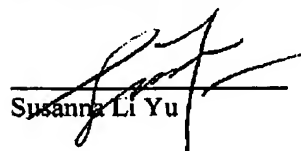
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Title of Document Transmitted: REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
Applicant: HANDBERG ET AL.
Serial No.: 10/678,955
Filed: OCTOBER 3, 2003
Group Art Unit: 3727
Our Ref. No.: 1835US01
Conf. No. 7289

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By: 
Name: Anneliese M. Seifert
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Susanna Li Yu

11/29/05
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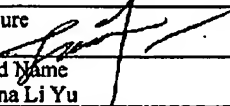
NOV 29 2005

PATENT
Docket Number: 1835US01IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HANDBERG ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Serial No.: 10/678,955 Group Art Unit: 3727
Filed: OCTOBER 3, 2003 Docket No.: 1835US01
Conf No. 7289
Title: BAG CARRYING HANDLE

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REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

This Reply is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 for which a one-month period for response expires on December 5, 2005.

In this Office Action, pending claims 1-21 were restricted as follows:

Group I (claims 1-20) drawn to a carrying device, classified in class 294, subclass 137;
and

Group II (claim 21) drawn to a method of moving a bag, classified in class 294, subclass 142.

Further, the Office Action required election of a species as follows: the species of Figures 1-3, the species of Figure 4, the species of Figures 5-6, the species of Figures 7-8, and the species of Figures 9-11.

PATENT
Docket Number: 1835US01

The aforementioned restriction has been made noting that the groups I and II are related as product and process of use. The Office Action notes that the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product such as a lifting handle or carrier or a bag handle.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections by suggesting that serious burden would not be placed on the Examiner if restrictions were adopted between the aforementioned groups. See MPEP §803. Indeed, both groups I and II are classified in the exact same class (i.e. 294). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present restriction requirement.

However, if the Examiner disagrees with this suggestion, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1-20) for further prosecution in the present application, and the species of Figures 1-3 (claims 1-7) for further prosecution in the present application. Claims 8-21 are therefore withdrawn from consideration but are not canceled. No fees are believed due for consideration of the present reply. However, if this is not the case, please charge any such required fees, including any extension fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account No. 501257.

Respectfully submitted,

ECOLAB INC.
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Dated: November 29, 2005

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